

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **STARK JOINS COLLEAGUES TO COMMENT ON SENATE FILIBUSTER DEAL**

WASHINGTON, DC- Today, US Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA, 13<sup>th</sup>) joined several colleagues of the Congressional Progressive Caucus to comment on the deal some U.S. Senators struck to avoid a filibuster over judicial nominations. Their statement follows:

“As members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, we understand that some U.S. Senators from both parties were eager to avoid the so-called nuclear option. But we don’t believe that this last-minute, brokered compromise by 14 of 100 senators serves the American people or the U.S. Senate well.

“Clearly, the American people want us to work out our differences in Congress whenever possible, but they don’t want political deals brokered at the expense of our fundamental rights and precious system of checks and balances.

“Federal judges are appointed for life terms and their rulings shape our daily lives. Accordingly, it is not unreasonable for the minority in the Senate --- whether Democratic or Republican --- to preserve their freedom and unqualified rights to openly debate the intellect, skills, public biases, and temperament of any judicial nominee that the President submits. This is all the more important because of the likelihood of one or more anticipated vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court.

“The right to unlimited debate is consistent with the solemn constitutional duty that every U.S. Senator has to advise and consent on presidential nominees. It is also a long-established Senate tradition that has helped ensure that the most qualified nominees sit on the federal bench. No matter which party controls the Congress and the White House, no President or the Majority Leadership in Congress should be given the right to upset the checks and balances

that are crucial to our democracy.”

The following members signed the previous statement:

Neil Abercrombie (HI)

Corrine Brown (FL)

Michael Capuano (MA)

Julia Carson (IN)

Donna Christensen (VI)

John Conyers (MI)

Danny Davis (IL)

Peter DeFazio (OR)

Lane Evans (IL)

Bob Filner (CA)

Raul Grijalva (AZ)

Luis Gutierrez (IL)

Alcee Hastings (FL)

Maurice Hinchey (NY)

Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL)

Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX)

Carolyn Kilpatrick (MI)

Dennis Kucinich (OH)

Barbara Lee (CA)

John Lewis (GA)

Cynthia McKinney (GA)

Gwen Moore (WI)

John Olver (MA)

Major Owens (NY)

Donald Payne (NJ)

Jose Serrano (NY)

Hilda Solis (CA)

Pete Stark (CA)

Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (OH)

Diane Watson (CA)

Lynn Woolsey (CA)